

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

35799

Date of Mailing
(day/month/year) **26 JUN 2001**

Applicant's or agent's file reference
092/01087

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/IL99/00399

International filing date (day/month/year)
20 JULY 1999

Priority Date (day/month/year)
20 JULY 1998

Applicant
EASYNET ACCESS INC.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 092/01087	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IL99/00399	International filing date (day/month/year) 20 JULY 1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 20 JULY 1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): G06F 17/60 and US Cl.: 705/14, 27; 295/200.31,33; 434/350, 379//12		
Applicant EASYNET ACCESS INC.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets.
☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
 These annexes consist of a total of 11 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 17 FEBRUARY 2000	Date of completion of this report 09 JANUARY 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Peggy Hanrod</i></div> VINCENT MILLIN Telephone No. (703) 305-9708

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL.99/00399

1. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application: *

☐ the international application as originally filed

☒ the description:

pages (See Attached)

pages, as originally filed

pages, filed with the letter of

☒ the claims:

pages (See Attached)

pages, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages, filed with the letter of

☒ the drawings:

pages (See Attached)

pages, as originally filed

pages, filed with the letter of

☒ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages (See Attached)

pages, as originally filed

pages, filed with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in printed form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☒ the description, pages

☒ the claims, Nos.

☒ the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. ☐ This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL99/00399

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-92</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-92</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-92</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-92 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest:

A method of pre-paid Internet access comprising a step of performing one or more activities not directly related to an issuer of an anonymous prepaid account and at most indirectly related while connected to the Internet, which activities incidentally modify the balance of the account, which activities are other than a requesting by an accessor of the account to transfer funds from another account (claims 1-37, 89-90).

A method of Internet access comprising:
automatically performing a connection using a previously automatically selected ISP (claims 38-40, 91, 92).

A method of Internet connection comprising deducting for an internet connection from a pre-paid account, said account being independent of a selected ISP (claims 41-43).

A method of Internet billing comprising a step of accessing a plurality of sites via a cost server, using an Internet interaction protocol, which access does not require additional actions beyond selecting a URL by a user (claims 44-50).

A method of configuring a computer comprising automatically updating the arbitrary computer using a virtual personality (claims 51-54).

A method of placing an advertisement using a pre-paid advertising account comprising slotting advertisements in available slots in an Internet and charging the slotting to the pre-paid account (claims 55-58).

A software for WWW site construction comprising a site (Continued on Supplemental Sheet.)

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Boxes I - VIII

Sheet 10

I. BASIS OF REPORT:

This report has been drawn on the basis of the description,
page(s) 1-40, as originally filed.
page(s) NONE, filed with the demand.
and additional amendments:
NONE

This report has been drawn on the basis of the claims,
page(s) NONE, as originally filed.
page(s) NONE, as amended under Article 19.
page(s) NONE, filed with the demand.
and additional amendments:
Pages 41-44 filed with the letter of 28 August 2000
Pages 45-51 filed with the letter of 20 February 2001

This report has been drawn on the basis of the drawings,
page(s) 1-3, as originally filed.
page(s) NONE, filed with the demand.
and additional amendments:
NONE

This report has been drawn on the basis of the sequence listing part of the description:
page(s) NONE, as originally filed.
pages(s) NONE, filed with the demand.
and additional amendments:
NONE

V. 2. REASONED STATEMENTS - CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS (Continued):

constructor which generates a portion of the site responsive to selection by a user (claim 59).

A method of WWW site maintenance comprising determining a current virtual personality of a user associated with a particular WWW site (claim 60-63).

A method for commanding a computer to perform an action having a step of entering an indication of a command which does not meet standard URL definition into the address portion (claims 64-68).

A method of manipulating a pre-paid card comprising receiving an anonymous pre-paid account and interacting with an Internet using said account, which interaction is modified by said personal information (claims 69-87).

A method of satisfaction guarantee, comprising receiving refund to a pre-paid account responsive to an indication that an activity was unsatisfactory (claim 88).

----- NEW CITATIONS -----
NONE

CLAIMS

1. A method of pre-paid Internet access, comprising:
accessing an Internet using an anonymous prepaid account, which access deducts from a
5 balance of said account; and
performing one or more activities not directly related to an issuer of said account and at
most indirectly related, while connected to said Internet, which activities incidentally modify
said balance additionally to said accessing, which activities are other than a requesting by an
accessor of said account to transfer funds to said account from another account.
10
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more activities increase said
balance.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said one or more activities comprise accessing
15 a particular site.
4. A method according to claim 2, wherein said one or more activities comprise replying
to a questionnaire.
- 20 5. A method according to claim 2, wherein said one or more activities comprise providing
personal identifying information.
6. A method according to claim 2, wherein said one or more activities comprise requesting
a service and wherein said balance is increased responsive to said service not being performed
25 in a satisfactory manner.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein comprising automatically determining, using a
computer, if said service is performed satisfactory.
- 30 8. A method according to claim 7, wherein said service comprises a search and wherein
satisfactory service comprises receiving suitable search results.

9. A method according to claim 2, wherein said one or more activities comprise viewing an advertisement.

10. A method according to any of claims 1, wherein said one or more activities decrease
5 said balance.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said one or more activities comprise purchasing a physical item on the Internet.

10 12. A method according to claim 10, wherein said one or more activities comprise purchasing a service on the Internet.

13. A method according to claim 10, wherein said one or more activities comprise downloading software.

15

14. A method according to claim 10, wherein said one or more activities comprise posting an advertisement.

15. A method according to claim 10, wherein said one or more activities comprise
20 retrieving information from an information providing service.

16. A method according to claim 10, wherein an accessor of said Internet using said account is queried for conformation before at least one of said activities cause a charge deduction.

25

17. A method according to any of claims 10-15, wherein said Internet connection is mediated by a pre-paid server and wherein said pre-paid server transfers funds to pay for at least one of said one or more activities.

30 18. A method according to any of claims 1-16, wherein said one or more activities include activities which increase said balance and activities which decrease said balance and wherein said increasing activities and said decreasing activities cancel each other out, at least in part.

19. A method according to any of claims 1-16, wherein said balance is constrained to remain positive.

20. A method according to any of claims 1-16, wherein said balance is allowed to become
5 negative.

21. A method according to any of claims 1-16, wherein a deduction responsive to said access is dependent on a quality of service of said connection.

10 22. A method according to claim 21, wherein said quality of service comprises a bandwidth.

23. A method according to claim 21, wherein said quality of service comprises a response
15 time.

24. A method according to claim 21, wherein said quality of service comprises an image
quality.

25. A method according to claim 21, wherein said quality of service comprises a measure of
20 advertising included in said Internet access.

26. A method according to claim 21, wherein said quality of service is a predefined quality
of service.

25 27. A method according to claim 21, wherein said quality of service is an actual quality of
service.

28. A method according to any of claims 1-16, wherein said access to said Internet is
anonymous.

30 29. A method according to any of claims 1-16, wherein a user name is associated with said
account after said account is used for a first time.

30. A method according to any of claims 1-16, wherein an e-mail address is associated with said account.

31. A method according to any of claims 1-16, comprising presenting a balance of said account to said user, while said user performs said one or more activities.

32. A method according to any of claims 1-16, comprising limiting access to said Internet responsive to limitation information associated with said account.

33. A method according to claim 32, wherein said information is associated with said account after said account is first used.

34. A method according to any of claims 1-16, wherein said account has a virtual personality associated therewith.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein said accessing is modified responsive to said virtual personality.

36. Apparatus comprising:

a computer; and

a storage media having software stored thereon, wherein said software supports said accessing and said modifying said account according to any of claims 1-16.

37. A method of maintaining pre-paid account, comprising:

providing a first pre-paid Internet access account associated with personalized information;

providing a second pre-paid card; and

transferring at least a part of a balance between the account and the card.

38. A method of Internet access, comprising:

detecting a connection request, by a connection server;

automatically selecting, by the connection server, an ISP (Internet Service Provider), from a plurality of available providers, for the connection; and

automatically performing the connection using the automatically selected ISP.

39. A method according to claim 38, wherein said connection server is implemented on a computer used to connect to the Internet.

5

40. A method according to claim 38, wherein said connection server is implemented on a computer other than one used to connect to the Internet.

41. A method of Internet connection, comprising:

10

dialing up an Internet access number, to start a session;

selecting an ISP (Internet Service Provider) after said dialing;

indicating said selected ISP during said session;

connecting to the Internet after said indicating, using said selected ISP; and

deducting for said connection from a pre-paid account, said account being independent

15

of said selected ISP.

42. A method according to claim 41, comprising automatically presenting, by a connection server, to a user a selection of suitable ISPs, for said selecting.

20

43. A method according to claim 41, wherein said session is not an Internet session.

44. A method of Internet billing, comprising:

connecting to an Internet via a cost server;

accessing a plurality of Internet sites via said cost server, using an Internet interaction

25

protocol, which access does not require additional actions beyond selecting a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) by a user; and

generating a debit, which debit accumulates charges at a different rate for each accessed site.

30

45. A method according to claim 44, wherein said Internet is accessed using a pre-paid Internet account, which account is debited using said debit.

AMENDED SHEET

46. A method according to claim 44 or claim 45, comprising presenting an indication responsive to said debit to said user during said access.

47. A method according to claim 44, wherein said cost-server is connected to via the
5 Internet.

48. A method of pre-paid access, comprising:
providing a pre-paid account;
connecting to an Internet, debiting said account for said connection at a debit rate; and
10 modifying said rate responsive to a quality of service for said connection.

49. A method according to claim 48, wherein said quality of service is requested by a user of said account.

15 50. A method according to claim 48 or claim 49, wherein said quality of service is determined based on parameters of the actual connection.

51. A method of configuring a computer, comprising:
connecting to an Internet, using an arbitrary computer;
20 downloading from the Internet a virtual personality; and
automatically updating the arbitrary computer using the virtual personality, to be configured as indicated by said personality.

52. A method according to claim 51, wherein automatically updating comprises
25 automatically updating a source e-mail address in an e-mail program on the arbitrary computer.

53. A method according to claim 51 or claim 52, wherein automatically updating comprises configuring production software program on said computer responsive to said download.

30 54. A method according to claim 53, wherein said production software comprises a word processor.

55. A method of placing an advertisement using a pre-paid advertising account, comprising:

slotting advertisements in available advertising slots in an Internet;
charging said slotting to said pre-paid account; and
controlling, by a user, an actual presentation of said advertising responsive to a real-time status of said account.

5

56. A method according to claim 55, wherein said user chooses said slots.

57. A method according to claim 55 or claim 56, wherein said controlling comprises modifying a targeting of said advertisements.

10

58. A method according to claim 55 or claim 56, wherein said controlling comprises modifying an exposure rate of said advertisements.

59. Software for WWW site construction, comprising:

15

a user input unit for receiving requests from a user;

a personality receiving unit for receiving a virtual personality associated with said user;

a selection display unit for selecting options to said user, which selections are displayed responsive to said received virtual personality, and which user input is used to select from said selections; and

20

a site constructor which generates a portion of said site responsive to selections by a user.

60. A method of WWW site maintenance, comprising:

determining a current virtual personality of a user associated with a particular WWW

25

site; and

modifying a presentation of said site responsive to said determined virtual personality.

61. A method according to claim 60, wherein said modifying comprises modifying display files.

30

62. A method according to claim 60, wherein said modifying comprises modifying a behavior of active components associated with said site.

AMENDED SHEET

63. A method according to claim 60, wherein said modifying comprises replacing display files.

64. A method of commanding a computer to perform an action, comprising:

5 providing an Internet browser comprising at least an address entering portion and a page display portion;

entering at least an indication of a command, which command does not meet standard URL definitions, into said address portion; and

10 executing said command, which command is other than a command to retrieve or connect to a URL.

65. A method according to claim 64, wherein said indication comprises an explicit command.

15 66. A method according to claim 64, wherein said indication comprises an implicit command.

67. A method according to claim 65, wherein said command modifies a file on a computer used for said browser.

20

68. A method according to claim 65, wherein said command modifies a file on a computer remote from the said browser.

69. A method of manipulating a pre-paid card, comprising:

25 receiving an anonymous pre-paid account;

associating personal information with said account; and

interacting with an Internet using said account, which interaction is modified by said personal information.

30 70. A method according to claim 69, wherein said personal information comprises a user identification.

AMENDED SHEET

71. A method according to claim 69, wherein said personal information comprises at least one limitation on said card.

72. A method according to claim 71, wherein said at least one limitation comprises a
5 limitation on cost expenditure using said account.

73. A method according to claim 71, wherein said at least one limitation comprises a limitation on accessing certain sites.

10 74. A method according to claim 69, wherein said personal information comprises a virtual personality.

75. A method according to claim 69, wherein said interaction modifies a balance of said account.

15

76. A method according to claim 69, wherein said personal information comprises a storage location on a computer connected to said Internet.

77. A method according to claim 69, wherein said interaction comprises accessing the
20 Internet.

78. A method according to claim 69, wherein said pre-paid account is limited to purchasing information.

25 79. A method according to claim 69, wherein said pre-paid account is limited to purchasing advertising.

80. A method of calculating a pre-paid account balance, comprising:
deducting from said account responsive to activities charged to said account, which
30 activities include an interaction with an Internet;
determining a quality of said activity; and
adding to said account responsive to said determined quality, if said quality is deemed unsatisfactory.

AMENDED SHEET

81. A method of doing business, comprising:
producing a plurality of pre-paid cards for interacting with the Internet and purchasing
over the Internet; and

5 selling said cards to individual customers.

82. A method according to claim 81, wherein said cards are associated with accounts for
accessing the Internet.

10 83. A method according to claim 81, wherein said cards are associated with accounts for
purchasing advertisements.

84. A method according to claim 81, wherein said cards are associated with accounts for
purchasing information.

15

85. A configurable computer, comprising:
a computer having production software stored in association therewith;
software loaded on said computer, which software configures said production software
to match a user, responsive to personalization information provided by said user;
20 usage tracking software for charging for the use of said computer; and
a data port for providing said personalization information by said user.

86. A computer according to claim 85, wherein said data port comprises an Internet
connection.

25

87. A computer according to claim 85, wherein said data port comprises a connection to a
portable computer.

88. A method of satisfaction guarantee, comprising:
30 performing an activity over an Internet using an anonymous prepaid account;
providing an indication that said activity was unsatisfactory; and
receiving a refund to said pre-paid account, responsive to said indication.

89. A method according to any of claims 1-16, wherein deductions from said account are in small denominations.
90. A method according to any of claims 1-16, wherein deductions from said account are in
5 denominations selected from a small set of denomination values.
91. A method according to claim 38, comprising pre-purchasing a plurality of connections for providing said available ISPs.
- 10 92. A method according to claim 38, comprising deducting for said connection from a pre-paid account, said account being independent of said selected ISP.

AMENDED SHEET